

**From:** [Cris Tee](#)  
**To:** [Information](#)  
**Subject:** thank you  
**Date:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 2:39:37 PM

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If I understand your recent vote on urban growth, I think a "thank you" is in order. My feelings on the matter are as follows: The Gorge National Scenic Area is a big reason why people choose to live here and they have entrusted you to protect it. More people live here and want to live here, of course, but solutions exist besides significantly encroaching on and bull-doing wild and scenic areas. Zoning changes for denser urban development within current boundaries is one of those solutions--especially for additional housing. A vocal minority of developers and profiteers will always insist that "we" need access to more land for "commercial and industrial development," but many of these voices have self-serving agendas. We are experiencing the closure of brick and mortars due to online competition and Covid19, so existing commercial spaces will provide new opportunities. And industrial expansion should be regarded with suspicion, lest outside interests use the opportunity to set up operations in one of our communities only to export the materials while leaving behind degradation, waste and pollution. Please know that the silent majority, the residents that call this home and cherish the scenery and space for recreation, support (and expect) the highest level of protection.

Sincerely,  
Cris T.